

Report of the Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1900.

FOR THE

WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my annual report on the sanitary condition of the Whitechurch Rural District, for the year ending December 31st, 1900.

The district consists of the various divisions of Whitechurch, Ganarew, Welsh Bicknor, Wolsh Newton, Llanrothal, and Garway, and contains an area of 10,307 acres, and a population as calculated from the last census and corrected up to the middle of 1900 of 2,683.

The Births registered during the year numbered 40, the sexes being in equal numbers, i.e., 20 male and 20 female. This is an increase of 5 over last year, and gives a birth rate of 14.9 per thousand, which is above the average of the last 4 years.

The total number of Deaths registered were 25, being an increase of 5 over that of last year. This gives a general death rate of 9.3 per thousand, which is below the average for the last 4 years. 8 deaths occurred in children under 1 year, giving a death rate of 200 per thousand births registered, this is considerably above the average; no particular cause is apparent; 2 died from affection of the bowels and 2 from chest disease, while one was premature, consequently this increase would appear to be accidental. The large number of deaths in advanced years is again to be noted. 13 out of a total of 25 died over 65 years of age, which testifies to the longevity in the district. Two cases of accidental death occurred, viz: one from drowning and one from gunshot injury.

Zymotic Disease —Although the district has not enjoyed the immunity of the previous year, still there has been no serious outbreak of epidemic disease. In the Whitechurch division one case of diphtheria occurred in the early part of the year, and in the latter part three cases of scarlatina were notified—all of a mild type. In Garway two cases of erysipelas occurred. No Schools have been closed on account of epidemic disease.

Work carried out during the year.—In conjunction with the Inspector the various parts of the district have been visited from time to time. In the Whitechurch division the houses in which the cases of diphtheria and scarlatina occurred were visited and disinfectants supplied, and instructions as to isolation, &c., given. Insanitary



conditions of several privies and pigstyes were remedied ; one house was condemned as unfit for habitation and has been cleaned out and is now being put in a state of repair. In Welsh Newton an unsanitary house was remedied. In Garway offensive and unsanitary refuse heaps, pigstyes, and privies were rectified.

The state of the district is satisfactory, the birth rate being above and the death rate below the average for the last 4 years. No serious outbreak of epidemic disease has occurred, and the scarlatina, as reported, was probably imported. The disposal of sewage and house refuse is by means of middens, cesspits, and privies, and where ordinary precautions are taken is fairly satisfactory. The supply of water is by means of wells, springs, and tanks. The streams remained free from pollution.

Recommendations.—One of the most important requirements is a better water supply for the houses on the Doward Hill in Whitechurch. Storage tanks might be adopted both for spring and rain water. Many of the houses are far removed from a source of supply available in even a moderately dry season. The careful supervision of house sanitation is still necessary despite a considerable improvement in this respect.

I append the new form of tables filled in as far as the year when the district was made a separate one.

I am, yours obediently,

LLOYD G. SMITH, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT.

FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District	DEATHS AT ALL AGES NETT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1890.	1929											
1891.												
1892.												
1893.												
1894.												
1895.												
1896.	2067	43	20.8	2	46.5	22	10.6					
1897.	2096	49	23.3	9	183.7	31	14.7					
1898.	2391	30	12.6	5	166.6	17	7.9					
1899.	2667	35	11.2	6	171.4	21	7.8					
Averages for years 189 -1899.	2305	39	16.9	5.5	142	22.7	10					
1900.	2683	40	14.9	8	200	25	9.3					

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term “Non-residents” is meant persons brought into the district on account of illness, and dying there; and by the term “Residents” is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of illness, and have died elsewhere.

Area of District in acres
(exclusive of area
covered by water) } 10,307

Total population at all ages at Census of 1891.....1,929.

TABLE II.
WHITCHURCH RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	1. _____				2. _____				3. _____				4. _____				5. _____				6. _____				7. _____			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Regis- tered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
(YEAR.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.
1890 ...																												
1891 ...	1929																											
1892 ...																												
1893 ...																												
1894 ...																												
1895 ...																												
1896 ...	2667	43	22	2																								
1897 ...	2096	49	31	9																								
1898 ...	2391	30	17	5																								
1899 ...	2667	35	21	6																								
Averages of Years 189 to 1899.	2305	39	22	5																								
1900 ...	2683	40	25	8																								

NOTES.—(a) The separate localities adopted for this table should be areas of which the populations are obtainable from the census returns, such as wards, parishes or groups of parishes, or registration sub-districts. Block 1 may, if desired, be used for the whole district; and blocks 2, 3, &c. for the several localities. In small districts without recognised divisions of known population this Table need not be filled up.

(b) Deaths of residents occurring beyond the district are to be included in sub-columns *c* of this table, and those of non-residents registered in the district excluded. (See note on Table I. as to meaning of terms “resident” and “non-resident.”)


(c) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions are to be allotted to the respective localities, according to addresses of the deceased

TABLE IV.

WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1900.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).							DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS.
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.								
Small-pox															
Measles															
Scarlet Fever															
Whooping Cough ...															
Diphtheria and mem- braneous croup ...															
Croup															
Fever {															
Typhus															
Enteric															
Other continued															
Epidemic influenza ...															
Cholera															
Plague															
Diarrhœa															
Enteritis	2	2													
Puerperal fever ...															
Erysipelas															
Other septic diseases ...															
Phthisis	2					2									
Other tubercular diseases															
Cancer, malignant disease	1						1								
Bronchitis	3	2					1								
Pneumonia															
Pleurisy															
Other diseases of Respira- tory organs															
Alcoholism }															
Cirrhosis of Liver }															
Venereal diseases ...															
Premature birth... ..	1	1													
Diseases and accidents of parturition															
Heart diseases	4					1	3								
Accidents... ..	2					1	1								
Suicides															
.....															
.....															
.....															
.....															
All other causes ...	10	3					7								
All Causes	25	8				4	13								



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